

Cross-Town Cage Foes to Meet

The Fearless Spectator

By



Charles McCabe, Esquire

On the way from the airport to New York City, you pass a huge steel and concrete cupcake, not unlike San Francisco's Candlestick Park in appearance.

This is Shea Stadium, which will be the home of the Mets someday. The Mets are the losingest baseball team in the history of the Nat'l Pastime, and have inspired a Cult of the Loser among the distressed along the Eastern littoral.

Shea Stadium is the only major ballpark ever built to accommodate a loser. It is also the only major ballpark that has been built on a garbage dump, which I'm sure is heavily symbolical or something.

There is kind of an air of mystery about the place. The city, which owns the \$21 million structure, told Mets General Manager George Weiss last April that the stadium would be ready for baseball by mid-August.

It isn't anything like ready yet. The target date now is April 1, in time for the Mets opener later in the month.

Everybody in charge of the project says it will be usable for baseball, if not fully completed, by that date.

"It's absolutely certain," says William J. Tooley, stadium director for the Department of Parks.

"There is no question about it," says John A. Mulcahy, the executive officer of the Department of Parks.

"I see no reason for even assuming that we wouldn't be ready," says engineer-architect Rick Praeger.

Despite these stirring assurances, however, there are those, and the newspaper reporters are among them, who doubt Shea Stadium will be ready by the stated date.

The newsmen have talked with some of the 300 workmen on the scene. Understandably, they asked Said one, "High tides flood the area behind the outfield, and the water seeps in and pretty soon makes large sheets of ice." He pointed to some. "If they're going to play baseball here, they're going to have to put in an underground pump system and you can't do that while the ground is frozen."

Another said, "Even the structural work may not be finished, if there is bad weather. We're working a six- and seven-day schedule now."

The completed stadium will seat 55,000 for baseball, and 60,000 for football. The main things still unfinished, besides the structural work, are seats in the movable stands, seats in the third-level boxes and various interior items.

The movable stands move on a track to provide ground-level sideline seats for football, and first- and third-baseline seats near home plate for baseball.

But it's that business about the high tide flooding the outfield that will sound most familiar to San Francisco baseball fans.

The most obvious physical fact about the situation—the flooding—may produce another comic stadium like Candlestick Park, where the most obvious physical fact about the situation—the roaring winds—did the job.

If anything were needed to reinforce our faith in the integrity of our industrial knowhow, we need merely contemplate the awesome spectacle of the oceans of expertise expended by the great cities to produce ball parks that each cost \$20 million—with one a certified dog, and the other promising to be one.

The salient difference, apparently, between Shea Stadium and our jolly ballpark, is that the flooding of the outfield can be cured, and the wind at Candlestick can't.

Knights Nudge Crespi

Bishop Montgomery pulled out of a two-game Camino Real League losing slump Tuesday night with a 52-50 triumph over Crespi.

Following losses to St. Bernards and Pater Noster, Montgomery received outstanding scoring efforts from three men to hand Crespi its third consecutive circuit defeat.

Bob Brown, suddenly coming into his own, popped 22 points through the cords to top Montgomery's offensive output. Pete Macarrone and Tony Guggiana carded 14 points each for the Knights.

CRESPI held a 17-15 lead after one quarter of play and still held a 30-28 edge at intermission. The contest remained close in the third stanza and Crespi maintained a 44-42 edge when the final quarter opened.

With Brown and Guggiana on target, Montgomery moved into a seven-point lead over Crespi and then hung on for the triumph.

It was a bitter loss for Crespi. It was the third time in loop play that Crespi has dropped a two-point decision.

DESPITE the win, Knight coach Roger Folsom was unhappy with his club's performance. "We were weak on rebounding and lacked good team play," Folsom analyzed.

Folsom did credit Brown with turning in a top performance. In last Friday's meeting with Pater Noster, the league's top-ranked quintet, Brown came through with a 20-point effort.

Bullets Bid For Crown On Sunday

Having already clinched a spot in the Los Angeles County baseball tournament, the Tormenta Bullets will continue their drive towards a winter league crown on Sunday against the Compton Pirates.

Tordena will meet Compton at 1:30 p.m. on the Sportsman Park diamond. Picking up their eighth win in nine starts, the Bullets whacked the Watts Giants, 14-8, last Sunday. Steve Sogge, an all-City footballer from Gardena High, led a 15-hit Bullet blitz by driving in five runs.

SOGGE belted a grand slam homer in the first inning and added a one-on triple in the seventh stanza. John Marsden, an all-Pioneer Leaguer from West High, collected three safeties.

Ed Deboer from Gardena High, Brent Nikoloff from North High and former North players Bob Wallace and Mike Brooks each picked up a pair of bingles.

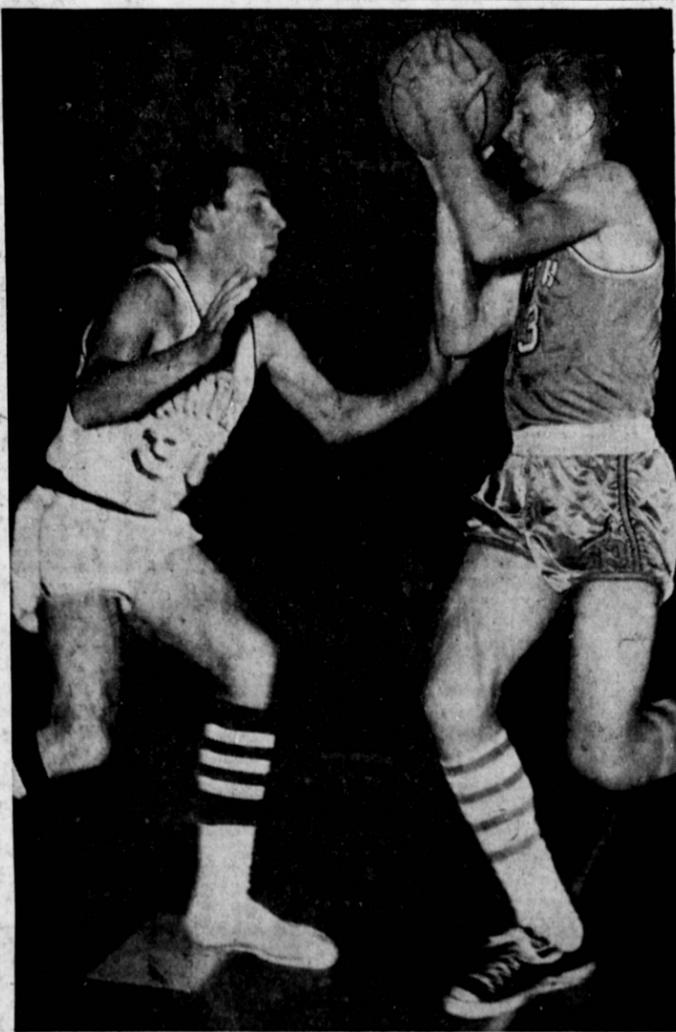
MARSDEN also picked up the mound triumph, fanning two men and walking only one batter. Lefty Jay Baker went part of the way for Tordena and whiffed six while walking three.

TORRANCE HERALD Sports

JANUARY 16, 1964

GREGG PETERSON, Sports Editor

37



SLEEP WALKING . . . North guard Dave Hempel attempts to drive past Torrance High's Dave Day for a layup during a non-league battle between the two schools Tuesday afternoon. Both players appear to be in slumberland as a result of a photographer's flashbulb. Hempel came off the bench for North and wound up as one of five Saxons in double figures as he sank 10 points in North's 82-58 win over Torrance. (Herald Photo)

North Routs Torrance Five In Non-League Encounter

Seldom does a good little team beat a good big team as Torrance High's cagers found out to their distraction Tuesday afternoon against North.

Deadly shooting and the rebounding of 6-5 center Al Lepper and his 6-8 running-mate, Ron Taylor powered North to an 82-58 non-league casaba win over the outmanned Tartars.

Five Saxons finished in double figures as North outscored Torrance in every quarter to register one of its easiest triumphs of a rugged campaign.

LEPPER, TAKING advantage of his height and experience,

stuffed 20 points through the hoop to edge Torrance's Mike Hatter for high-scoring honors. Hatter topped the Tartars with a 19-point effort.

Terry Tierney wound up with 15 points for North, followed by Taylor with 14, Mike Gratzke with 10 and reserve Dave Hempel with 10. Walt Hale canned 11 markers to back up Hatter.

NORTH JUMPED into a 15-9 lead after one quarter of play and by halftime the Saxons owned a 36-17 bulge. Torrance played almost even ball in the third period and North went into the closing stanza with a 55-35 edge.

Torrance boasts only six men over six feet and it was evident against North. The two biggest Tartars are Richard Davies at 6-5 and Bennie Mag-

nante at 6-3, but neither player saw much action.

Nine Saxons range over the six-foot mark, including three starters. The height was evident as North continually sank stuff shots and used its height to take second and third attempts at the bucket.

AWARE THAT Torrance might try and hold on to the ball, North switched from its usual zone defense to a man-to-man game.

Victory gave North a big boost towards the City championship. In a pre-season scrimmage, the Saxons easily handled a young West High quintet and only South remains on the North docket. South and North will tangle Tuesday on the Spartan court in a non-league meeting.

West Will Place Streak on Block Against Tartars

Battle-scarred Torrance High will attempt to climb back into the Pioneer League title picture against a rejuvenated West High quintet tomorrow at 8 p.m. on the THS court. Torrance will come into the contest weary from two consecutive setbacks against Aviation and North while West is fresh off its first triumph of the year.

West waited until its league opener against El Segundo before jelling as a team and nabbing its first win of the year. Guard Dan Thomas plopped in a pair of key free throws with only seconds left in the game to give West a 52-50 win over the Eagles.

SOUTH WILL meet its second consecutive Bay League powerhouse tomorrow night, traveling to Mira Costa. Last Friday the Spartans were tagged with a 71-70 last-second defeat by league favorite Redondo.

Mira Costa is regarded as the circuit's second-best quintet with South rated in third place. High-scoring Spartan forward Don Denson will offer Micohi its chief defending problem.

Denson popped 17 points through the cords in the final quarter against Redondo and finished the night with 33 markers. He has a high-game total of 44 points this season, achieved against defending CIF champ Compton.

HIGH-FLYING North will journey to Culver City tomorrow for an 8 p.m. Sky League

clash. The Saxons opened the league campaign with a win over Morningside, but North mentor Skip Enger expects to encounter considerable difficulty at Culver.

Last year the Centaurs won the Pioneer League championship and although graduation left Culver in dire straits, the unpredictable quintet can not be counted out of the title picture.

Much of North's success this year can be attributed to 6-8 Ron Taylor and 6-5 Al Lepper, but Culver City can match the Saxons in height. The Centaurs will open with a 6-6 forward and a 6-9 center.

INCONSISTENT Bishop Montgomery will tangle with St. John Vianney tomorrow at Loyola University in a Camino Real League tiff.

The fast-breaking Knights have shown the potential to score this season, collecting 99 points against Harvard in the Chadwick Tournament, but they have lacked consistency.

Pater Noster and St. Bernards whipped Montgomery in league encounters before Roger Folsom's crew could get untracked against Crespi on Tuesday.

Nelson Cards 27 In Casaba Action

Despite a 27-point performance by Joe Nelson and a 20-point effort by manager Gary Little, Foods Co. dropped a 65-60 nod to Aeronca in Torrance Recreation Department cage action the past week.

Aeronca received a 24-point game from Earl Chilcote and a 22-marker effort from Bill Clark to withstand a final quarter Foods Co. rally and nab the Industrial League decision.

In other Industrial League tilts, Avery Bryant dumped in 16 points and Manny Glasser added 12 more to pace the Jack Cramer quintet in a 65-37 win over Local 1-547. Charles Chichester popped in 12 points for the losers.

HARVEY ALUMINUM put together big first and third quarters to gain a 41-35 win over AResearch. Charles Knight and James Lewis led Harvey with 10 points each while Mike Novikoff hit 13 and manager Linn Hough hit 11 for AResearch.

The Waleria Assembly of God overcame a five-point deficit in the final period to register a 42-40 decision against Redondo First Baptist in a Church League tiff. Manager Tom Tapp was high point man for Waleria with 18 points.

MANAGER Dick Jensen canned 19 points and Phil Nelson responded with 14 for Resurrection Lutheran in a 49-31 win over Torrance First Lutheran. Danny George topped the losers with 14 digits.

Balanced scoring boosted the King's Men to a 38-37 come-from-behind win over Torrance First Baptist. Mauri Meyers

hit 12 points and manager Bob Huber and Pat Calvey contributed 10 each to overcome a 217-point effort by Paul Plunkett of Torrance.

In Tuesday Open League action, Rich Rufell continued his high scoring with a 24-point effort to pace Party House in a 48-39 victory over Wreck-Alders. Gary Mixt dunked 10 points for the losers.

Manager Terry Birdsall (15), Ed Lauchner (19), Bob Halberg (13) and John Massey (10) powered Hughes to a 70-29 victory over the Llama Room in a Thursday Open League contest. Tom Hanley led the losers with 10 digits.

Ruth League Opens Trials On Saturday

Tryouts for the North Torrance Babe Ruth League will be held Saturday and Jan. 25 at Arlington School, 178th Van Ness in Torrance.

Boys from 13 to 15 years of age, born between Aug. 1, 1948 and Aug. 1, 1951 are eligible for the tryouts.

North Torrance League boundaries are the ocean on the West, Compton Boulevard on the North, Vermont Avenue on the East and 190th Street on the South.

Interested boys must appear at Arlington School with birth certificate, a \$2 registration fee and a parent.

For further information, contact Men's Board President Bob Newell at 371-8113.



CHARITY DRIVE . . . Adam Eskenazi, a crippled Wilmington youngster, is among many who will benefit from the March of Dimes midget car race at Ascot Park on Saturday, Jan. 25. Eskenazi recently met with Indianapolis champ

Parnell Jones, who was among the first to enter the event, and racing director J. C. Agajanian. "Champions drive so children may walk" has been selected as the slogan for the race.

Tribe Envisions 'New Look'

There may be a "new look" to the El Camino College basketball team when it takes to the Cerritos College hardcourt tomorrow evening at 8.

The Warriors, unsuccessful in two attempts against Metropolitan Conference opposition thus far, took a respite from their daily, four-hour practice sessions this week while coach George Stanich devised methods to shoot down elusive Falcons.

"I am going to mill over a few things before we meet Cerritos Friday, like whether to use the stall offense more regularly," Stanich said.

Stanich has received good performances from both Lloyd and Caton this season but their

work could be improved. This is where the stall attack comes to the front.

"We try to capitalize on the strength of our guards—Kirk Brown and Bobby Garcia—when the pivotmen begin to have some problems," Stanich explains.

"THE OFFENSE is basically set up to open the defense for one of the guards to drive through the middle for an open shot. This also leaves one of the forwards open for an outside shot."

El Camino initiated its stall against Los Angeles City College last season. The Warriors, incidentally, lost a 63-57 decision to the Cubs in that game.

Tomorrow's game will pit the Cerritos experience against El Camino's relative youth.

The Falcons won their opening conference games by 76-53 (to East Los Angeles) and 75-66 (to Bakersfield) margins and met Valley College Tuesday evening.

Coach John Caine's ball club averages a shade more than 6-1 in height but the "big" man in the Falcon attack is peewee Gary McCoy (5'8"), second-team all-conference last year. McCoy scored 37 points in Cerritos' opening two games.

The tallest starter is 6-4 center Harv Shepherd, holder of every El Rancho High School rebounding record and returning letterman.

In the front court is Joe Jennum, a 24-year-old veteran who lends capable support to McCoy's scoring and Shepherd's rebounding talents. He won all-conference second team honors last year.

TEAMING WITH Jennum is freshman Les Powell, 6-1 product of Santa Fe High School, where he won All-San Gabriel Valley first team honors. Powell has a good shooting eye and does adequate defensive duty.

Rounding out the starting five is 5-11 guard Chuck Hagen, who compiled a 7.3 point per game average and hit 41 per cent from the floor last year at Cerritos.